

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01015 152032Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSF-01 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00
INT-05 DLOS-09 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W
-----160800Z 096310 /22
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 568

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1015

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TBIO, TD, PLOS
SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX AMAZON/CARIBBEAN EXPEDITION

REF: STATE 78136

1. CHARGE CALLED ON PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY
FO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, LENNOX BALLAH, ON APRIL 14 TO
DISCUSS ALPHA HELIX CRUISE AND GOTT POLICY ON MARINE
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. CHARGE PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE
OUTLINING THE PROBLEM AND REMINDED BALLAH THAT THE
CANCELLATION OF THE ALPHA HELIX WAS THE SECOND
TIME A RESEARCH PROJECT PLANNED BY A U.S. RESEARCH
VESSEL FOR TRINIDADIAN WATERS HAS BEEN ABANDONED DUE
TO THE RESTRICTIVE POLICY OF THE GOTT. HE POINTED
OUT THAT THE GOTT WAS CUTTING ITSELF OFF FROM VALUABLE
RESEARCH WORK BY ITS POLICY.

BALLAH SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM, BUT
DID NOT INDICATE THAT THE GOTT CONSIDERED THE LOSS OF
THE RESEARCH SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO WARRANT CHANGING
ITS POLICY. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF
RESEARCH VESSELS IN THE OFFSHORE AREAS WHICH HAD BEEN
LICENSED FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COULD
CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH CLEARANCE AND COORDINATION WITH THE
COMPANIES INVOLVED.

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3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CHANGE IN THE GOTT
POSITION UNTIL OR UNLESS THE MARINE RESEARCH QUESTION IS
RESOLVED IN OUR FAVOR IN THE LARGER LOS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.
MEANWHILE, IT IS USEFUL FOR US TO CONTINUE TO BUILD A CASE RECORD
REMINDING THE GOTT OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR
RESEARCH IN THESE WATERS. IN ADDITION TO THE DIRECT

OFFICIAL DIALOGUE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WE HAVE
INFORMALLY CONVEYED THE FACTS OF THE ALPHA HELIX CANCEL-
LATION AND THE REASONS THEREFORE TO GOTT FISHERIES OFFICIALS
AND TO UNIVERSITY MARINE SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE COOPERATED
WITH PREVIOUS US-SPONSORED MARINE RESEARCH IN THIS AREA.
RICH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ALPHA HELIX R/V, AMAZON, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, AIDE MEMOIRE
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TBIO, PLOS, TD, US, XL, (BALLAH, LENNOX)
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